

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A caster comprising:

a single mounting leg;

first and second wheels each having an axle pivotably mounted to opposite ends of a suspension arm, the axle of one of the first and second wheel coaxially supporting the suspension arm to the mounting leg-attached to a mounting leg; at least one in a manner such that only the other of the first and second wheels is pivotably attached to the mounting leg is movable up and down with respect to the mounting leg;

wherein the first and second wheels are disposed forward and back with respect to the mounting leg, and an endless wrap-around member wrapped around the first and second wheels, the first and second wheels having common tangents C1 and C2, the common tangent C2 having an angle α with respect to a ground surface,

wherein the wraparound member is a continuous endless belt formed by connecting a plurality of pieces via at least one connecting member, the wraparound member having a linear portion A formed along at least the common tangent C2 of the wheels,

wherein each of the pieces is independently formed as a body including a wheel guide section on an inner peripheral side thereof,

each of the wheel guide sections having

a connecting section extending in an axial direction of the wheels and facing

the adjacent pieces of either side thereof,

a pair of side walls formed, respectively, on ~~inner and outer peripheral ends~~
each end of the connecting section in the axial direction,

each of the side walls facing the adjacent pieces and including a ~~contact~~
contacting section extending away from an axis of the wheels in a direction
perpendicular to the connecting section, and a guide wall extending toward ~~the axis of~~
~~the wheels in the~~ opposite direction perpendicular of the contacting section with
respect to the connecting section, and

~~when viewed along the axial direction of the wheels, each of the contacting sections is~~
~~seen as a linear section that extends parallel to the contacting sections of the adjacent pieces,~~
~~and that is perpendicular to the linear portion A of the common tangent C2 of the wheels,~~

~~wherein the guide wall of each of the side walls includes an inclined surface section,~~
~~the inclined surface section being adapted to form a groove that is substantially V-~~
~~shaped between each of the adjacent pieces, thereby enabling the wraparound member to~~
~~bend along an outer periphery of each of the first and second wheels, and~~

~~since the contacting sections of the adjacent pieces abut respectively against each~~
~~other along the linear portion A, the linear portion A of the common tangent C2 is capable~~
~~maintaining a linear condition and is prevented from being dented, so that even when the~~
~~linear portion A is pushed by a force from an outside, the linear portion A is capable of~~
~~serving as an anti-sticking plate.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Withdrawn) The caster according to claim 1, wherein the at least one connecting member has a circular cross-section.

4. (Withdrawn) The caster according to claim 1, wherein each of the pieces is provided with a tire section on an outer peripheral side of the body, and

wherein outer peripheral sections of the first and second wheels are fitted into the wheel guide sections.

5. (Withdrawn) The caster according to claim 4, wherein each of the tire sections and the wheel guide sections are respectively formed as separate bodies.

6. (Withdrawn) The caster according to claim 1, wherein the first and second wheels overlap each other when viewed from a direction perpendicular to the ground surface.

7. (Withdrawn) The caster according to claim 1, wherein the first and second wheels have different diameters and a plurality of wheels with a smaller diameter is provided in the axial direction of the wheels.

8. (Withdrawn) The caster according to claim 1, wherein each of the pieces of the wraparound member is provided with a tire section on an outer peripheral side thereof and, the tire section being formed as the continuous endless belt, and the guide wall of each of the side walls being adapted to engage outer peripheral sections of the first and second wheels being combined with the tire section to form each of the pieces.

9. (Withdrawn) The caster according to claim 1, wherein each of the pieces of the wraparound member is provided with a tire section on an outer peripheral side, the guide wall of each of the side walls being provided to engage outer peripheral sections of the first and second wheels.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn) The caster according to claim 1, wherein the first wheel is provided in such a manner a diameter thereof is $\frac{1}{5}$ or less of that of the second wheel and its thickness is substantially the same as that of the second wheel, wherein the first wheel is disposed close to an outer periphery of the second wheel so that the first and second wheels are disposed on the same straight line when viewed from a direction of each of the thicknesses.

12. (Withdrawn) The caster according to claim 11, wherein a plurality of first wheels is provided along an outer periphery of the second wheel.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Withdrawn) The caster according to claim 1, wherein each of the pieces is provided with a plurality of connecting holes on opposite sides thereof, and

the at least one connecting member is a plurality of connecting members adapted to pass, respectively, through each of the connecting holes, in order to connect the adjacent pieces together, thereby forming the continuous endless belt.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The caster according to claim 1, wherein the at least one connecting member is a sheet belt.

17. (Withdrawn) The caster according to claim 14, wherein the at least one connecting member extends in a direction parallel to the axial direction of each of the wheels.

18. (Previously Presented) The caster according to claim 1, wherein the at least one connecting member is a cord extending through a connecting hole provided in each of the side walls.

19. (Currently Amended) A caster comprising:

a mounting leg;

first and second wheels each having an axle pivotably mounted to first and second ends of a suspension arm, the axle of first wheel coaxially supporting the first end of the suspension arm to the mounting leg;

a suspension spring connecting the second end of the suspension arm to the mounting leg and enabling the second wheel to move up and down with respect to the mounting leg;

wherein the first and second wheels ~~being~~ are disposed forward and back with respect to the mounting leg, and an endless wrap-around member is wrapped around the first and second wheels, the first and second wheels having common tangents C1 and C2, the common tangent C2 having an angle α with respect to a ground surface,

wherein the wraparound member is a continuous endless belt formed by connecting a plurality of pieces via at least one connecting member, the wraparound member having a linear portion A formed along at least the common tangent C2 of the wheels,

wherein each of the pieces is independently formed as a body having a wheel guide section on an inner peripheral side thereof,

each of the wheel guide sections having

a connecting section extending in an axial direction of the wheels and facing the adjacent pieces of either side thereof,

a pair of side walls formed, respectively, on ~~inner and outer peripheral ends~~ each end of the connecting section in the axial direction,

each of the side walls facing the adjacent pieces and including a ~~contact~~ contacting section extending away from an axis of the wheels in a direction perpendicular to the connecting section, and a guide wall extending toward ~~the axis of the wheels in the~~ opposite direction perpendicular of the contacting section with respect to the connecting section, and

~~when viewed along the axial direction of the wheels, each of the contacting sections is seen as a linear section that extends parallel to the contacting sections of the adjacent pieces, and that is perpendicular to the linear portion A of the common tangent C2 of the wheels, and~~

~~since the contacting sections of the adjacent pieces abut respectively against each other along the linear portion A, the linear portion A of the common tangent C2 is capable maintaining a linear condition and is prevented from being dented, so that even when the linear portion A is pushed by a force from an outside, the linear portion A is capable of serving as an anti-sticking plate,~~

wherein the first wheel and the second wheel are offset with respect to each other in the axial direction of the wheels.

20. (Previously Presented) The caster according to claim 1, wherein portions of the first wheel and the second wheel overlap each other when viewed in the axial direction of the wheels.

21. (New) The caster according to claim 1, wherein when the caster is viewed along the axial direction of the wheels, each of the contacting sections is seen as a linear section that extends parallel to the contacting sections of the adjacent pieces, and that is perpendicular to the linear portion A of the common tangent C2 of the wheels,

wherein the guide wall of each of the side walls includes an inclined surface section, the inclined surface section being adapted to form a groove that is substantially V-shaped between each of the adjacent pieces, thereby enabling the wraparound member to bend along an outer periphery of each of the first and second wheels, and

since the contacting sections of the adjacent pieces abut respectively against each other along the linear portion A, the linear portion A of the common tangent C2 is capable maintaining a linear condition and is prevented from being dented, so that even when the linear portion A is pushed by a force from an outside, the linear portion A is capable of serving as an anti-sticking plate.

22. (New) The caster according to claim 19, wherein when the caster is viewed along the axial direction of the wheels, each of the contacting sections is seen as a linear section

that extends parallel to the contacting sections of the adjacent pieces, and that is perpendicular to the linear portion A of the common tangent C2 of the wheels, and

since the contacting sections of the adjacent pieces abut respectively against each other along the linear portion A, the linear portion A of the common tangent C2 is capable maintaining a linear condition and is prevented from being dented, so that even when the linear portion A is pushed by a force from an outside, the linear portion A is capable of serving as an anti-sticking plate.